

Appl. No. 10/069,507
Amdt. Dated September 28, 2004
Response to Office Action of March 31, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 21 of the specification as follows:

Another object of the present invention is also an intake manifold or splitter 1 comprising at least one, and preferably a plurality of intake pipes 2 in the form of duct portions connecting the chamber 20 of the manifold or dispenser with the heads, and obtained by assembling at least two complementary parts 1", 1'" in thermoplastic material by vibration welding (see figures 3 to 5 and 7 to 9).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 20 of the specification as follows:

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the control shaft 4 provided with valves 3 extends transversally near one of the ends of the intake pipes 2, i.e. as far as its connection area with wall 1' of the chamber 20 of manifold 1 or as far as its connection area with the fixing plate on the heads, the supporting bearings 12 and, if necessary, the guiding bearings 6, 7, as well as the translation blocking stops 10 of the control shaft 4 being at least partially, and preferably completely, formed onto said wall 1' of the manifold chamber 20 or onto said fixing plate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 10 of the specification as follows:

In particular, said assembly control shaft 4/valves 3 can be placed on the interface intake pipe 2/chamber 20 of manifold 1 or on the interface intake pipe 2/heads. In particular in the first case, the assembly can be "sandwiched" between two parts 1" and 1'" forming the chamber 20 of said manifold or splitter and having an assembly or connection plane or line going across said interface area pipe/manifold on the outlet openings of said pipes within the chamber 20 of said manifold (figures 3 to 5).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 20 of the specification as follows:

According to another embodiment of the invention, shown in particular in figures 3 to 5, 7 and 9 of the attached drawings, the control shaft 4 freely goes (without contact) through the walls of the intake pipes 2 concerned or extends through the openings of said pipes 2 getting into the chamber 20 of manifold 1, the assembly of the structural parts 1", 1'" of manifold 1 creating a sealed case 15 around the connection areas of the assembly of said intake pipes 2 together with wall 1' of manifold 1 or where said pipes 2 get into the chamber 20 of manifold 1, the piece formed by the assembly control shaft 4/valves 3 being mounted by introduction into bearings 6, 12 pre-formed onto the wall 1' of one 1" of the pieces 1", 1'" forming manifold 1, on cylinder-shaped protuberances 9 or on bearing portions 11 formed or attached onto shaft 4, the other one 1'" of said pieces 1", 1'" possibly preventing the coming out of shaft 4 from said bearings 6, 12 after assembling the two pieces 1" and 1'".